

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 15-31, 37-39, 41-43, and 46-48 are pending in this application. Claims 1-45 stand rejected and claims 46-49 are objected to. By this amendment, claims 7-14, 32-36, 40, 44, 45, and 49 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 46-49. By this Amendment, claims 41, 43, 46, and 48 have been amended. The amendments made to the claims do not alter the scope of these claims, nor have these amendments been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendments to the claims have been made for cosmetic reasons to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Claims 40 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,504,832 ("Koo"). Applicants respectfully submit this rejection is moot due to the cancellation of these claims.

Claims 7, 12-14, 32, 43, and 48 stand rejected under Koo in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,491,837 ("Haartsen"). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been rendered moot by Applicants' claim amendments.

Applicants have responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

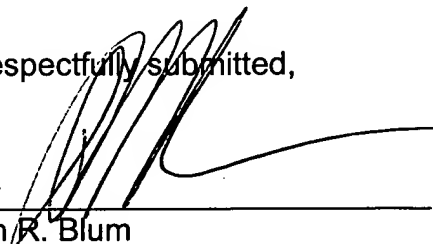
Application No.: 09/699,648

Docket No.: M1912.0018

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Dated: May 11, 2006

Respectfully submitted,


By _____

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